

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07932 241834Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 /019 W
-----041671 250043Z /15

R 241614Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6184
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TSS: AGAO, MARR, MASS, BE
SUBJECT: GAO REPORTON F-16

REF: BRUSSELS 7713

1. A MEMBER OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S CABINET CALLED US AFTER REVIEWING THE GAO REPORT TO PROVIDE US WITH PRELIMINARY BELGIAN REACTIONS ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT FIND ANYTHING OF SURPRISE IN THE REPORT, HE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN KNOWING WHETHER THE U.S.GOVERNMENT OR U.S.AIR FORCE PLANNED TO PUBLISH ANY SORT OF AN EXPLANATORY PAPER FOR PUBLIC RELEASE AS A COUNTER TO THE GAO REPORT. IF SO, HE SAID THE GOB WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE REPORT PRODUCED NO SURPRISES TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, HE COMMENTED -- AS AN OFFHAND REMARK -- THAT THE REPORT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME IN VIEW OF CURRENT BELGIAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS, AND THAT A DELAY (FOREVER) IN RELEASE WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR PREFERENCE.

3. THE GOB IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE GAO TEAM CURRENTLY IN BELGIUM TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING GAO STUDY OF THE MULTINATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE F-16 PROGRAM. THE GOB FEELS THAT IT MUST ACCEPT
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THE GAO TEAM IN ORDER TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE GAO WHAT THE GOB WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THE F-16 PROGRAM, AND TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT ANY MISCONCEPTIONS ON THE PART OF THE GAO. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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